जमीन कम्पनसेशन में ले ली जाये, यह आसान प्रश्न हो जाता है। इसलिये आज यह चिंता का विषय है कि हम सरिस्का टाइगर रिजर्व पार्क को कैसे सुरक्षित रखें। मैं माननीय सदस्य से सहमत हूं कि इतने सालों से जिनका रोजगार इससे जुड़ा हुआ है उसको कैसे सुरक्षित रखा जाये, यही मैंने पहले कहा कि इस पर विचार कर रहे है।

Invitation to Officers of who for Interacting with Tobacco Farmers of Andhra Pradesh

*285. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM :†
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended any invitation to the officers of the World Health Organisation to visit Guntur, Krishna and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh to meet and inter-act with tobacco farmers;

(b) if so, the details of such a programme; and

(c) if no invitation has been extended to World Health Organisation, reasons for not involving W.H.O. to study the immediate impact of forth-coming legal restraints on tobacco products?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The recommendations of the WHO are quite clear on the need for curbing consumption of tobacco and no further consultation is considered necessary.

उपसभापति : पूछिये, पूछिये आपके नजदीक ही बैठे है।

He is sitting next to you.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mentay Padmanabhan.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, I cannot speak without your permission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: My Permission is granted.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, the question is related to tobacco consumption. It appeared in the Press that the Health Ministry was thinking in terms of bringing in a comprehensive legislation to curb tobacco consumption. Madam, it will result, ultimately, in imposing curbs on tobacco production also. In Andhra Pradesh, nearly 2,50,000 acres of land are being cultivated for tobacco production, another 40,000 to 50,000 acres are being used in Karnataka and, may be, some more land is being used for tobacco production in various other parts of the country. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he realised that while bringing in this legislation for curbing cosumption of tobacco products, he was going to create displacement of a number of farmers who are making their living out of tobacco production. Has he got any scheme to rehabilitate those people who will be displaced, who will be discouraged to produce tobacco in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka? I am asking this because this is the real problem of the farmers. Recently, Madam, a number of farmers came to Delhi. They met the Prime Minister, other Ministers and a number of MPs also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he has made any exercise, whether he has taken into consideration the plight of the farmers, who are producing tobacco, while bringing this legislation and part (b) of my question....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer part (a).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: What are the salient features of the legislation which he is contemplating to bring?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR:

Madam, the main purpose of bringing in this new legislation is to create awareness among the people regarding the effects of tobacco consumption. As you know, every year, about 8 lakhs people die in this country due to tobacco-related diseases. And about 3 million people die in the whole of the world on account of this. Therefore, the main thrust of this legislation is to create awareness and prevent aggressive advertisements by the tobacco manufacturers in this country.

While doing so, we have taken into account the problem of tobacco growers also. For that reason, we held a national seminar on Tobacco & Health in 1991. After that, we held a meeting comprising representatives of the State Governments, State Health Ministers, Health Secretaries and involved people from Industry Ministry, Agriculture Ministry. We discussed with them. This legislation is mainly for creating awareness among the people. The hon. Member has rightly wanted to know about the salient features of the legislation. It is mainly to create awareness. We have identified five areas to be included in the new legislation. If you allow me, I will read out those areas.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't think there will be any supplementary questions.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, there are a lot of supplementaries.

I am happy to know this and I am not against this kind of a legislation. Let me make it clear. But the interests of a number of farmers are involved with this legislation. I am happy to hear that he has undertaken wide consultations with all sorts of people, with the Ministers and the State Governments.

I have written a number of letters to the hon. Minister and also to the hon. Prime Minister requesting them to convene a meeting of the Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka because the interests of the farmers from both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are involved. But I am surprised because I have not received even a single reply either from the Minister or from the Prime Minister. Apart from holding consultations with various agencies, I would like to know whether he would like to share his views with the Members of Parliament; whether he is prepared to consult the Members of Parliament before bringing the said legislation.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Madam Chairperson, I am happy that the hon. Member agrees with the proposed legislation and has no different opinion about it. After all, the House is aware, every Member of this House is aware of the harm and damage that tobacco causes to human body. I don't think anybody would differ this opinion. My colleague has stated in detail. I can appreciate the hon. Member's concern for farmers. After all, I also come from an area where tobacco is grown and it is really a question of farmers. But the Resolution of the World Health Organisation in 1986 clearly questioned whether we would want tobacco or health. It questioned, "Tobacco or Health, what do you want?" This is the problem before us. If you want tobacco, say goodbye to health. If you want health, say goodbye to tobacco. That is what WHO said. May I say at the moment that tobacco was once upon a time a cash crop in the non-irrigated area in the country. Today, with developoed irrigation facilities throughout the country, the tobacco grown area itself has come down and farmers are moving to other cash crops which are more beneficial, which are easy to cultivate.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, that is not correct. It is not correct that irrigation has not increased in this country. That is not correct.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The suggestion made by the hon. Member is whether I am going to convene a meeting

of the Members of Parliament before this legislation is brought foward. This is a suggestion for our consideration.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether he would give an assurance to convene a meeting. He says, "this is a suggestion for consideration." He is very guarded in saying this. Is he not prepared to share his views with the Members of Parliament?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is sharing with you on the floor of the House.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Madam, I can assure the hon. Member that I will take into consideration the opinion of all the Members of Parliament who are concerned with this problem.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Madam, the World Health Organisation has also recommended the stopping of tobacco cultivation.

Due to such a policy of the WHO, the value of tobacco has fallen. Will any mony be given by the WHO to compensate the farmers?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Madam, the World Health Organization is concerned with the health part of the issue. With regard to giving some relief to the affected farmers, Madam, we have had discussions with the Agriculture Ministry and in the future also we would be definitely having more discussions with the Agriculture Ministry so that the affected farmers in the long run would get some relief from the Agriculture Ministry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Madam, I do agree with the Minister that tobacco is a dying crop and there is no other go except to phase out the tobacco crop and encourage the farmers to switch over to alternative crops. But the problem is that the Government feels that tobacco and the other products of tobacco are a source of revenue to them and they constitute about 11 per cent of the total money going into the Government coffers. That is why the Government is not serious about phasing out the tobacco crop. So, I would like to know from the Government whether it is not a fact that the Government gets about Rs. 2,700 crores as excise duty on tobacco and what the proposals are with the Government to compensate the farmers. There is a heavy capital investment in this by the barons to the extent of sixty to seventy thousand rupees per hectare. Is there any proposal at the disposal of the Government to see that these people are compensated for phasing out the tobacco crop?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Leave enough time for the Minister to answer. I know your concern about the tobacco growers. But let him have some time to reply.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: I now come to the other aspect of the question. What are the proposals the Government is considering for encouraging the farmers to go in for alternative crops and is there any co-ordination among the Commerce, Agriculture, Finance and Health Ministries with regard to this?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Madam, I have already stated that the main purpose of this legislation is to create awareness among the people against the use of tobacco and we have already discussed the problems with the Commerce and Agriculture Minstries and, in the future also, we would be having more discussions with them on this. Immediately no tobacco grower is going to be affected. There is going to be a long span of time and, definitely, the Agriculture Ministry will come forward with some schemes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramsinh Rathwa.

श्री राम सिंह राठवा: उपसभापति महोदय, मैं

आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि एक किसान खेती करता है और थकता है, या मजदूर मजदूरी करने के बाद थकता है तो बीड़ी पीता है। इससे उनका स्वास्थ्य भी खराब होता है। तो आपके पास ऐसा कोई विकल्प है कि बीड़ी के बजाय आप उनको वह दे सके और साथ में उनका स्वास्थ्य भी ठीक रहे तथा थकान के बाद वे फिर से काम कर सकें।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is there any proposal?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Madam, I do not think that there are any such proposals to give like this because it is the firm view of the Health Ministry to discourage the use of tobacco among the people of our country. There is no such proposal and there is no alternative also. I say this because, I think, all the honourable Members would recall that even before our Independence, the Father of the Nation had started an agitation against the use of opium. In those days, hundreds of thousands of acres of land was being used to cultivate opium. But, gradually, the cultivators shifted to other crops because you cannot compromise with the health of the people of the country.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No.286.

*286. *[The Questions (Shri Ramdas Agarwal) was absent. For answer vide col. 29 infra]*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No.287.

पान-मसाले में सैकरीन का इस्तेमाल

***287. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज†**
डा॰ जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन:

क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कार्यरत अनेक खाद्य अनुसंधान संस्थानों ने पान-मसाले में शर्करा (सैकरीन) या उससे उत्पादित अन्य सामग्री के इस्तेमाल का विरोध किया है क्योंकि उससे कैंसर हो सकता है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन संस्थाओं के नाम क्या हैं; और सरकार द्वारा उनकी सलाह को अस्वीकार कर पान-मसाला विनिर्माताओं को शर्करा (सैकरीन) या उससे उत्पादित अन्य सामग्री को पान-मसाले में उपयोग करने की छूट देने के क्या कारण हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बी॰ शंकरानंद): (क) और (ख) पान मसाले में सैकरीन के प्रभाव के बारे में अलग-अलग विचारों के कारण सरकार ने इस विषय पर विभिन्न अध्ययनों और सामग्री की जांच करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशक की अध्यक्षता में एक विशेषज्ञ ग्रुप की नियुक्ति की। विशेषज्ञ ग्रुप के सदस्यों द्वारा व्यक्त किए गये विभिन्न विचारों को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस मामले को विशेषज्ञ राय के लिए महानिदेशक, भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद को भेजा गया। दी गई राय इस प्रकार थी:—

(1) पान मसाले और सुपारी में उत्परिवर्तजनीयता होती है।

(2) जितनी मात्राओं में सैकरीन का प्रयोग किया गया है उनसे पान मसाले और सुपारी में उत्परिवर्तजनीयता नहीं बढ़ती।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण संस्थान में आरक्षित पदों का भरा जाना

***283. श्री कामेश्वर पासवान:** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नई दिल्ली स्थित राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण संस्थान में वरिष्ठ प्रालेखन अधिकारी के पद (आरक्षित) को, जिसे दिनांक 25 फरवरी, 1993 को विज्ञापित किया गया था, उसे अनारक्षित पद घोषित किए जाने के पश्चात् 17 मई 1993 को पुनः विज्ञापित किया गया; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बी॰ शंकरानन्द): (क) और (ख) राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य

* सभा में यह प्रश्न श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज द्वारा पूछा गया